

Service Date: April 28, 1998

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER of the Application)	UTILITY DIVISION
of BLACK HILLS CORPORATION d/b/a)	DOCKET NO. D98.4.78
BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT CO.,)	DEFAULT ORDER NO. 6062
for Authority to Decrease its Quarterly)	
Fuel Rate Rider.)	

On April 6, 1998, Black Hills Corporation d/b/a Black Hills Power and Light Company (BHP&L or Applicant) filed a petition with the Montana Public Service Commission pursuant to §§ 69-3-101 et seq., MCA, for an order authorizing the Applicant to decrease its electric rates in order to reflect the decreased cost of fuel used in the generation of electricity. The fuel costs concerned are for the months of December 1997, January and February 1998.

On April 9, 1998, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity For Public Hearing. A provision in that notice stated, "If, however, no hearing is requested by April 27, 1998, the Commission will consider the matter and a default order may be issued." Having considered the application and the documentation furnished by the Applicant in support of its application and deeming itself fully advised in the premises, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. If decreased fuel costs for the months of December 1997, January and February 1998, are to be recovered, a charge of \$.00005 must be subtracted from the base fuel cost of \$.01240 approved in Docket No. 83.4.25, which results in a total fuel charge of \$.01235 per Kwh. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider will decrease revenues by approximately \$170 below fuel costs authorized in Docket No. 83.4.25.

2. The number of customers presently being served in Montana is 45.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over parties and proceeding in this matter.
2. The resulting rate levels are reasonable and just.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider for the billing period of May, June and July 1998 is \$.00005 per Kwh. This charge shall be subtracted to the base fuel cost approved in Docket No. 83.4.25.
2. The approved rates shall be effective for electric service rendered on and after May 1, 1998.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana, on this 27th day of April, 1998. by a 5 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DAVE FISHER, Chair

NANCY MCCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request that the Commission reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.